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LETTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BENIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to my letters of 28 October 1992 (S/24735) and 30 October 1992 (S/24811), I have the honour to inform you that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) ministerial mission is due to arrive in New York for the emergency meeting of the Security Council on the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Liberia.

I append hereto for your information and for the information of the members of the Security Council the final communiqué, in French and English, of the first summit meeting of the Committee of Nine of ECOWAS, held at Abuja on 7 November 1992, on the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

I should be grateful if you would have the final communiqué circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) René Valéry MONGBE

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Final communiqué of the First Summit Meeting of the Committee of Nine on the Liberian crisis, held at Abuja, 7 November 1992

1. In conformity with the decision taken on 20 October 1992 in Cotonou by the Joint Meeting of the Standing Mediation Committee and the Committee of Five, the first Summit Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of Nine was held in the ECOWAS Headquarters Building at Abuja on 7 November 1992 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Nicéphore Dieudonné Soglo, President of the Republic of Benin and current Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority.

2. Present at the Summit were the following heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives:

- H.E. Mr. Nicéphore Dieudonné Soglo, President of the Republic of Benin;
- H.E. Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of FASO, head of Government, Burkina Faso;
- H.E. Mr. Félix Houphouët-Boigny, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
- H.E. Flt.-Lt. (Rtd.) Jerry John Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana;
- H.E. General Lansana Conté, Chairman of the Military Committee for National Reconstruction, Head of State, President of the Republic of Guinea;
- H.E. General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema, President of the Togolese Republic;
- The Honourable Alhaji Lamin Kitti Jabang, Minister of Interior, representing the President of the Republic of the Gambia;
- The Honourable Djibo Kâ, Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing the President of the Republic of Senegal.

3. Attending the Summit at the invitation of the Committee were:

- H.E. Captain Valentine E. M. Strasser, Chairman of the Supreme Council of State of the National Provisional Ruling Council and Head of State of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

- The Honourable Gabriel Bacchus-Mathews, Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing the President of the Interim Government of National Unity of Liberia.

4. Attending in an observer capacity was:

- Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. James Jonah, representing the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Review of the Liberian situation

5. Heads of State and Government reviewed developments relating to the situation in Liberia since the Joint Summit of the Standing Mediation Committee and the Committee of Five, held at Cotonou on 20 October 1992, in the light of the reports made by the Chairman of the Authority and the Field Commander of ECOMOG.

6. The Chairman stated that the purpose of the Meeting was to assess the extent of implementation of the Yamoussoukro IV Accord. He said that following the Cotonou Meeting, he had written to all the interested parties to the Liberian conflict to convey to them the decisions of that Meeting. However, hostilities had continued, frustrating all efforts to restore peace and the normal rhythm of life in Monrovia and elsewhere in Liberia. There had also been a heavy influx of displaced persons into Monrovia, in search of the relative safety provided by ECOMOG.

7. The Meeting also received a situation report from the Field Commander of ECOMOG in which he confirmed that none of the warring factions had heeded the call of the Cotonou Meeting for a cease-fire. The Field Commander stated that the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) was at the centre of the raging hostilities: on the one hand, it was engaged in an armed struggle with the United Liberation Movement of Liberia (ULIMO) for territorial control, and, on the other hand, it had mounted a massive military offensive against ECOMOG forces.

Reaffirmation of ECOWAS commitment to peaceful resolution of the Liberian crisis

8. The Meeting reaffirmed the full commitment of ECOWAS to a peaceful resolution of the Liberian crisis by way of democratic elections which underpinned the ECOWAS Peace Plan and offered the best possible framework for restoring peace and stability to Liberia. The Meeting, therefore, reaffirmed the Yamoussoukro IV Accord and the decisions of the Cotonou Joint Summit Meeting of 20 October 1992.

Condemnation of NPFL attack against ECOMOG

9. Heads of State and Government unreservedly condemned the unprovoked and premeditated aggression by the NPFL against ECOMOG forces in Liberia, and expressed full support for the defensive action taken by ECOMOG. Heads of State and Government again reaffirmed the right of ECOMOG, as a peace-keeping force, to defend itself decisively against armed attacks from any quarter.

10. Heads of State and Government, in the face of mounting evidence of atrocities, warned all warring factions against the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Liberia. The Meeting paid a tribute to all who have perished in the senseless war being waged by Charles Taylor, including in particular the nuns who were recently killed by the NPFL, and expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

Strengthening of ECOMOG

11. Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the vitality and necessity of ECOMOG in Liberia and expressed their profound gratitude to the member States which had contributed troops to ECOMOG. They agreed all the other member States of ECOWAS, especially those States in whom the NPFL had shown to have confidence, should contribute to ECOMOG in order to strengthen its capacity to discharge its peace-keeping mandate and also enhance trust and confidence among all the warring parties.

Cease-fire in Liberia

12. In renewing its call to all the warring parties to declare a cease-fire effective midnight 10 November 1992, the Meeting directed ECOMOG to ensure not only respect for the cease-fire by all the warring parties, but also that the cease-fire is implemented concurrently with the encampment and disarmament of all combatants of the warring parties.

13. Heads of State and Government invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint a Special Representative to cooperate with ECOWAS in the implementation of the ECOWAS Peace Plan. Heads of State and Government equally requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to appoint an Eminent Person to collaborate with ECOWAS in the implementation of the ECOWAS Peace Plan.

Holding of elections in Liberia

14. Heads of State and Government recommended and encouraged the Ad Hoc Elections Commission of Liberia to consider organizing democratic presidential and parliamentary elections as soon as conditions allow but in any event not later than three months from the installation of a cease-fire in Liberia.

Application of Sanctions Decision

15. Heads of State and Government stressed the need for full cooperation by all the parties concerned for the effective establishment of conditions that

would conduce the holding of free, fair and democratic elections in Liberia. Consequently, heads of State and Government reaffirmed their decision in Cotonou to impose sanctions against any warring faction that failed to comply with the provisions of the Yamoussoukro IV Accord and declared that in view of the failure of all the warring parties to implement the terms of the Yamoussoukro IV Accord at the expiration of the deadline of 5 November 1992 as stipulated by the Cotonou Summit Meeting, the Sanctions Decision shall be deemed to have entered into force against all the warring parties as from 5 November 1992.

16. Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their mandate to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Committee of Nine, accompanied by the Executive Secretary, to proceed to New York, as soon as possible to make the necessary representations to the United Nations Security Council with a view to securing the Council's endorsement of the ECOWAS Sanctions Decision and making it mandatory for the entire international community in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Vote of thanks

17. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation to H.E. General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Government and people of Nigeria for their exemplary role in ECOMOG and for the great contribution they were making to sustain the capability of ECOMOG to discharge its mandate in Liberia, for the very warm and fraternal welcome extended to them and their delegations, and for the excellent facilities made available to ensure the success of this first Summit Meeting of the Committee of Nine.

Done at Abuja this 7th day of November 1992